

From the INTERNATIONAL BUREAU

PCT**NOTIFICATION CONCERNING
TRANSMITTAL OF COPY OF INTERNATIONAL
PRELIMINARY REPORT ON PATENTABILITY
(CHAPTER I OF THE PATENT COOPERATION
TREATY)**

(PCT Rule 44bis.1(c))

To:

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P.O. Box 1022
Minneapolis, MN 55440-1022
ETATS-UNIS D'AMERIQUE

Date of mailing (*day/month/year*)

26 April 2007 (26.04.2007)

Applicant's or agent's file reference

09991-171WO1

IMPORTANT NOTICE

International application No.

PCT/US2005/036934

International filing date (*day/month/year*)

12 October 2005 (12.10.2005)

Priority date (*day/month/year*)

15 October 2004 (15.10.2004)

Applicant

FUJIFILM DIMATIX, INC. et al

The International Bureau transmits herewith a copy of the international preliminary report on patentability (Chapter I of the Patent Cooperation Treaty)

The International Bureau of WIPO
34, chemin des Colombettes
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Authorized officer

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PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

PCT

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY REPORT ON PATENTABILITY

(Chapter I of the Patent Cooperation Treaty)

(PCT Rule 44bis)

Applicant's or agent's file reference 09991-171WO1	FOR FURTHER ACTION See item 4 below	
International application No. PCT/US2005/036934	International filing date (<i>day/month/year</i>) 12 October 2005 (12.10.2005)	Priority date (<i>day/month/year</i>) 15 October 2004 (15.10.2004)
International Patent Classification (8th edition unless older edition indicated) See relevant information in Form PCT/ISA/237		
Applicant FUJIFILM DIMATIX, INC.		

1. This international preliminary report on patentability (Chapter I) is issued by the International Bureau on behalf of the International Searching Authority under Rule 44 bis.1(a).

2. This REPORT consists of a total of 6 sheets, including this cover sheet.

In the attached sheets, any reference to the written opinion of the International Searching Authority should be read as a reference to the international preliminary report on patentability (Chapter I) instead.

3. This report contains indications relating to the following items:

- | | | |
|-------------------------------------|--------------|---|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Box No. I | Basis of the report |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Box No. II | Priority |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Box No. III | Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Box No. IV | Lack of unity of invention |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Box No. V | Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Box No. VI | Certain documents cited |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Box No. VII | Certain defects in the international application |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Box No. VIII | Certain observations on the international application |

4. The International Bureau will communicate this report to designated Offices in accordance with Rules 44bis.3(c) and 93bis.1 but not, except where the applicant makes an express request under Article 23(2), before the expiration of 30 months from the priority date (Rule 44bis .2).

Date of issuance of this report
17 April 2007 (17.04.2007)

Authorized officer

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PCT

see form PCT/ISA/220

WRITTEN OPINION OF THE
INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY
(PCT Rule 43*bis*.1)

Date of mailing
(day/month/year) see form PCT/ISA/210 (second sheet)

Applicant's or agent's file reference
see form PCT/ISA/220

FOR FURTHER ACTION
See paragraph 2 below

International application No.
PCT/US2005/036934

International filing date (day/month/year)
12.10.2005

Priority date (day/month/year)
15.10.2004

International Patent Classification (IPC) or both national classification and IPC
INV. G06F3/12

Applicant
DIMATIX, INC.

1. This opinion contains indications relating to the following items:

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Box No. I | Basis of the opinion |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Box No. II | Priority |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Box No. III | Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Box No. IV | Lack of unity of invention |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Box No. V | Reasoned statement under Rule 43bis.1(a)(i) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Box No. VI | Certain documents cited |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Box No. VII | Certain defects in the international application |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Box No. VIII | Certain observations on the international application |

2. FURTHER ACTION

If a demand for international preliminary examination is made, this opinion will usually be considered to be a written opinion of the International Preliminary Examining Authority ("IPEA") except that this does not apply where the applicant chooses an Authority other than this one to be the IPEA and the chosen IPEA has notified the International Bureau under Rule 66.1bis(b) that written opinions of this International Searching Authority will not be so considered.

If this opinion is, as provided above, considered to be a written opinion of the IPEA, the applicant is invited to submit to the IPEA a written reply together, where appropriate, with amendments, before the expiration of 3 months from the date of mailing of Form PCT/ISA/220 or before the expiration of 22 months from the priority date, whichever expires later.

For further options, see Form PCT/ISA/220.

3. For further details, see notes to Form PCT/ISA/220.

Name and mailing address of the ISA:



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Date of completion of
this opinion

See form
PCT/ISA/210

Authorized Officer

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**WRITTEN OPINION OF THE
INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY**

International application No.
PCT/US2005/036934

Box No. I Basis of the opinion

1. With regard to the **language**, this opinion has been established on the basis of:
 - ☒ the international application in the language in which it was filed
 - ☐ a translation of the international application into , which is the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of international search (Rules 12.3(a) and 23.1 (b)).
2. With regard to any **nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence** disclosed in the international application and necessary to the claimed invention, this opinion has been established on the basis of:
 - a. type of material:
 - ☐ a sequence listing
 - ☐ table(s) related to the sequence listing
 - b. format of material:
 - ☐ on paper
 - ☐ in electronic form
 - c. time of filing/furnishing:
 - ☐ contained in the international application as filed.
 - ☐ filed together with the international application in electronic form.
 - ☐ furnished subsequently to this Authority for the purposes of search.
3. ☐ In addition, in the case that more than one version or copy of a sequence listing and/or table relating thereto has been filed or furnished, the required statements that the information in the subsequent or additional copies is identical to that in the application as filed or does not go beyond the application as filed, as appropriate, were furnished.
4. Additional comments:

**WRITTEN OPINION OF THE
INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY**

International application No.
PCT/US2005/036934

Box No. V Reasoned statement under Rule 43bis.1(a)(i) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement

1. Statement

Novelty (N)	Yes: Claims	1,15,25
	No: Claims	
Inventive step (IS)	Yes: Claims	
	No: Claims	1,15,25
Industrial applicability (IA)	Yes: Claims	1,15,25
	No: Claims	

2. Citations and explanations

see separate sheet

Re Item V.

1 Reference is made to the following documents:

D1: EP-A2-1 267 254 (HEWLETT PACKARD CO [US]) 18 December 2002 (2002-12-18)

D2: EP-A-1 452 313 (OLYMPUS CORP [JP]) 1 September 2004 (2004-09-01)

2 INDEPENDENT CLAIM 1

2.1 The present application does not meet the criteria of Article 33(1) PCT, because the subject matter of claim 1 does not involve an inventive step in the sense of Article 33(3)PCT.

Document D1, which is the closest prior art, discloses (the references in parentheses applying to this document):

A computer-implemented method of facilitating image printing, the method comprising:

transferring an image to be printed to a first software component (par. 0016: "*The print processor receives...*");

using the first software component to selectively pre-process the image depending on a format of the image (par. 0016: "*The print processor receives the native format electronic document, identifies the native format of the document, and converts to a document in print-ready format*"); and

using a second software component to generate an image printable by a print device (par. 0016: "*The print-ready formatted document is then sent to the print engine for printing*").

The difference between D1 and the claimed method lies in the function of the second software component, which is designed to generate a plurality of image queues from the pre-processed image data. This feature solves the problem of how to modify the image data in order to make it suitable to be printed by a printer having multiple printing heads.

Document D2 addresses this problem in exactly the same way as the claimed

method, namely by:

generating a plurality of image queues (par. 0027, 0028: the divided image memories are image queues) from the pre-processed image, each image queue comprising at least one portion of image data associated with an association of print elements (par. 0030: "*Reference numeral 210 denotes a divided image memory which holds the image data supplied to the recording head 212, and 211 denotes a divided image memory which holds the image data supplied to the recording head 213*") that correspond to a configuration of print elements (the number of print heads corresponds to the number of queues) at a printing device.

The claimed method being merely a juxtaposition of two features without any synergistic effect, and both features being disclosed by the prior art, the subject-matter of independent claim 1 cannot be considered to involve any inventive step.

3 INDEPENDENT CLAIMS 15,25

The above inventive step objection applies mutatis mutandis to the systems defined by independent claims 15 and 25, in spite of the addition of an image repository to the claims, which is an obvious feature common to all image processing systems.

3 DEPENDENT CLAIMS 2-14,16-24,26-29

Dependent claims 2-14,16-24,26-29 do not contain any features which, in combination with the features of any claim to which they refer, meet the requirements of the PCT in respect of novelty and/or inventive step (Article 33(2) and (3) PCT).